

HOSPICE CHECKLIST

24 QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK YOUR HOSPICE.

A hospice can be a great source of support and relief for both a patient and family members. Hospices provide care to patients with a terminal illness so the patient may live his or her remaining days as peacefully as possible with minimal pain. Hospice care should neither artificially extend life nor hasten the patients death.

Some hospices and hospice organizations actively promote actions that hasten death including terminal sedation, withdrawal of nutrition and hydration, and suppression of breathing. Certain hospices and hospice organizations have been found to facilitate assisted suicide. Hospice Foundation of America and National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization are among those hospice organizations that promote means to hasten death.



We have developed 24 questions you can ask to determine what type of care philosophy a hospice follows. Use this checklist as one means to help determine whether a specific hospice is the right place for you or your loved one in an effort to preserve the dignity of life even until death.

NOTE: WE BELIEVE IT IS NOT REASONABLE FOR HOSPICES TO REQUIRE YOU TO SIGN A "DO NOT RESUSCITATE ORDER" IN ORDER TO BE ADMITTED TO THAT HOSPICE.

- 1** Will this hospice accept a patient who is fed through a feeding tube or IV?
- 2** Will this hospice continue feeding the patient with a feeding tube or IV?
- 3** Under what circumstance would a feeding tube or IV be removed?
- 4** Will this hospice establish a feeding tube or IV if necessary to provide nutrition and hydration to the patient?
- 5** Will this hospice continue to administer medications that are stabilizing a chronically ill patient, when the patient is not actively dying?
- 6** Will the hospice treat patient infections with antibiotics?
- 7** Under what, if any, circumstances would terminal sedation be used?
- 8** Will this hospice reject any patient request for assisted suicide?
- 9** Will oxygen be provide if it is needed to keep the patient comfortable?
- 10** Will physical therapy, be provided if it will help the patient's condition to improve (e.g. after a stroke to recover use of limbs)?